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CIA Meets Problems Changing Public Image

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WASHINGTON — The CIA, as part of a Governmentwide program of community participation, sent two computer experts to a mostly black high school here to be volunteer teachers in computer science.

It had hoped that would improve its image while helping bright students better themselves.

Instead, some teachers are demanding ouster of the CIA volunteers, reportedly suggesting several possible sinister CIA goals including the recruitment of blacks to serve in Africa.

That furor is just one of dozens of recent examples of how the CIA is paying for its bad reputation stemming from widely publicized illegal domestic surveillance and foreign assassination plots.

Some other incidents:

1. Harvard University ordered that any faculty member cooperating with the CIA must inform the dean in writing. All university contracts with the CIA must be made public. The results

of any research done for the CIA must be open to public inspection.

2. A Brooklyn (N.Y.) College assistant professor faced possible dismissal because his colleagues, including his brother-in-law, were upset that he was "debriefed" by a CIA employe after returning from scholarly research in Europe. He may be denied tenure.

3. A Democratic Wisconsin legislator charged that the CIA is snooping in state matters because a CIA employe asked for a copy of a bill designed to protect the privacy of personal records kept by state and local governments.

4. A welfare group in Minneapolis-St. Paul warned of CIA influence on "public and private decision making" as a CIA employe there sought election to the local Citizens League board.

"This whole trend would be hilarious if it weren't so damaging," a CIA spokesman said. "All the events are troubling because of their spirit."

CIA recruiters have steered clear of colleges where they know they are not wanted. They were greeted by demon-

strators at colleges in Boston and Seattle in January and February.

Many of the 36 local offices of the CIA Domestic Collection Division (DCD) have been the subject of "local spy" newspaper stories even though DCD employes are not agents. They are called "field officers." Their job is to glean whatever they can from Americans who have traveled abroad or done business overseas and volunteered to talk about what they learned.

One newspaper bragged about "tail-ing" a DCD field officer.

When the National War College here sent a class of 14 persons, including one CIA employe, on a February 1977 field trip to Houston, Tex., to study a school district dispute, a local paper said: "The Central Intelligence Agency and the U.S. armed forces converged on Houston Wednesday to..."

IN APRIL the CIA planned to send 20 of its top management people to Minneapolis-St. Paul to study management techniques at major industries there. When word leaked to reporters, at least one of the companies canceled

for fear of bad publicity. Some CIA managers couldn't attend the meetings for fear of "blowing their covers" once the story made the papers, a CIA spokesman said.

The new Harvard guidelines worry intelligence officials the most.

The fear is that other schools will adopt Harvard's rules, thus blocking or severely inhibiting CIA access to the scholars and resources of many top think tanks.

The Harvard rules were announced May 20 by President Derek Bok, who adopted recommendations from a four-member Harvard committee including law professor Archibald Cox. Cox was the first Watergate prosecutor until he was fired by then President Nixon.

"We don't understand the singling out of the intelligence community," one congressman said. "Where are Harvard's guidelines on dealing with the State Department or industry?"

"This whole mess could have a chilling effect on CIA's relationship with scholars. Scholarship is an essential part of what CIA does."

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